

CROW'S NEST



Crow's Nest is a newsletter which is for those who collect anything related with the U.S. Navy, USCG, USCGS, USPS or Merchant Marine. photocopies that show unusual and old rates, etc., can be sent with a description if possible. If you want your name to appear in the Crow's Nest, let us know. This is for now, FREE!!! Free ads can be submitted to go into Slop Chest, that is what was used for clothes sold aboard ship in the old days.



John A. Stacey was kind enough to let us illustrate this early badge for an unknown sailor who was a petty officer anywhere from 1841 to 1866, most likely closer to 1841. Underneath a pattern is visible on the back. It is hand made and it's colors can only be guessed at as this badge faded. Eagle is now tan, shield has pink and white stripes, purple on top of shield and, anchor in blue and shield bordered in yellow. I hope I described it as it is? Drawn to scale as shown.

AMPHIBIOUS INSIGNIA (Part I)

According to John A. Stacey in his book : U.S. NAVY RATING BADGES, SPECIALTY MARKS, DISTINGUISHING MARKS 1885-1982, the Chief of Naval Personnel replied to a request from Landing Craft School, the Amphibious Force Pacific Fleet on 24 April 1943 and informed them that the insignia shown was being sold by San Diego tailors and these were unauthorized. This device existed in the form of a distinguishing mark, and in a multi-colored shoulder patch.



Patch courtesy of CWO-4 Lester B. Tucker of Washington state.

IS IT NAVAL?

The answer is that it is not, it is army!
CHEVRONS: Illustrated History and Catalog of U.S. Army Insignia by LTC William K. Emerson of Huntsville, Alabama described a proposed chevron in 1919 for Quartermaster Corps drawings for Quartermaster Sergeant Junior & Master Grades, for Quartermaster Corps and Motor Transport Corps, without a star over the eagle's head for Q.M.C. Jr., with the crossed sword and key replaced by an 8-spoked wheel for Corps of Engineers, Transportation Corps, and Tank Corps. Background material is olive-green wool in composition, all had a green wreath, with the eagles in white (and white star). The wheel was red and the crossed sword & key, both buff in colour. In addition to these were: red or white lightening bolts; and a yellow lance. These were never worn! They were produced in 1920. These are not U.S. Navy rating officer rating badges, but could be confused for them nonetheless and are shown here to educate collectors when one is not familiar with them. The U.S. Army did have their own navy and navy-like rate badges ... more later on this subject!

Sarge



SLOP CHEST

WANTED: Crow's Nest illustrator draftsman (DM) needs xeroxes and descriptions of naval insignia. Your name will appear if you want it included as contributor! All drawings are done on 11" X 17" vellum many times larger than actual size, tell us if you'd like to have them free as we give them away when asked for. Suitable for framing these fine drawings in ink. **WRITE: CROW'S NEST,** c/o Sarge Becker, P.O. Box 981, San Fernando, CA 91340-0981 to include your articles and badges. The ads are free of charge, set no cost.

WHAT TO DO WITH THAT WEAVER OLD RATING BADGE?

One reader said: Regarding "super realistic" drawings, I agree that "idealized" drawings and diagrams don't give a real idea of the real thing, ...but the loose threads detract from the work. Looks raggedy." Another reader said: "I trim them off or weave the threads back into place." Any answer can be right! If a badge is recent, one can try to get a new one

in better condition and if it is old, depending on it's rarity, etc., I would say: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!!" speaking of super realistic drawings, do you the readership prefer a drawing that is ideally drawn or rough, warts & all? Replies welcomed. The drawing here is an example of "as is!" The drawing to the right is idealized.

Any suggestions?

Serge



Serge

NEITHER FISH NOR FOWL?

Just what was this rating? So far no one seems to know, so I might ask, do you know? It is navy blue molton, chevrons are navy blue with white embroidery. The eagle is navy blue with white embroidery. The shield is navy blue with white embroidery. The time period must be between early as 1948 or 1951. This is not in the COLLECTORS GUIDE TO U.S. NAVY RATING BADGES, COMBINATION GROUP-RATE MARKS AND SPECIALTY MARKS by J.J. Walker.



NAVY E
1906-1975

NAVY E
1938-1957



NAVY E
1957-1975



NAVY "E" AWARD RIBBON

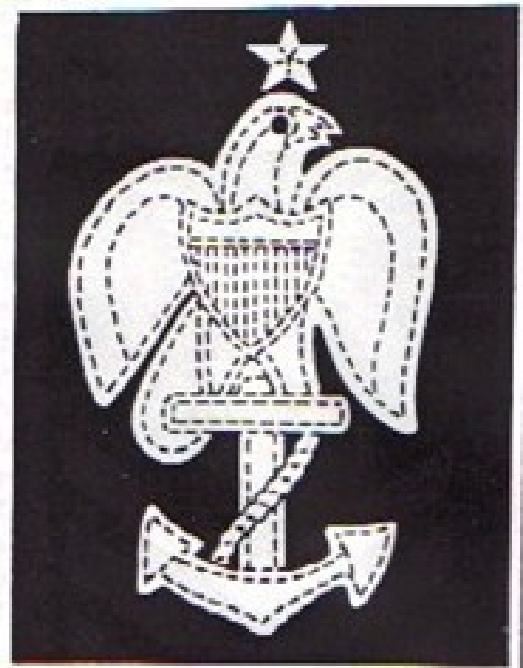
NAVY E (1906 to 1975)

This badge was instituted as an excellence award in gunnery for enlisted men in 1906. A second bar was added in 1938. In 1957 those bars were made diagonally and both bar and letter were in white on blue - vice-versa. A fifth award was added in 1960, a gold E was awarded and subsequent bars were gold also. This badge was replaced in 1975 with a ribbon bar with a metal E for additional awards. Engineer's Division personnel were given a red E on blue or white uniforms in 1957 according to Cicerone. It is possible find other letters, i.e., A, C, M, W, DC & EW, in green, black, blue, etc.

The ribbon bar is yellow on outer edges, blue in the center with stripes of white separating the blue from the yellow.

PETTY OFFICERS' BADGES (c.1841-1866).
Prior to the 1866 United States naval regulations, petty officers wore the badges shown here and other varieties as well, most were hand embroidered.

Special thanks to:
CWO-4 Lex Tucker &
John A. Stacey who
assisted with this
project.



SLEEVE INSIGNIA (1866)



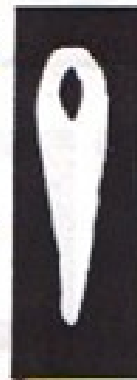
MASTER AT ARMS



WORK ON BOTH SLEEVES
AT THE POSITION
CORRESPONDING TO
THE GOLD STAR ON THE
OFFICER'S SLEEVE -
PETTY OFFICER BADGE
WORN ON BOTH SLEEVES
ABOVE THE ELBOW.

SAILMAKER'S MATE

BOTH SLEEVES,
PO-BADGE ON LEFT
SLEEVE ONLY,
ABOVE ELBOW,
BUT WITHOUT STAR.



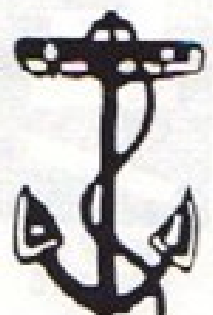
WORK ON BOTH SLEEVES, IN FRONT, HALF-
WAY BETWEEN THE WRIST AND ELBOW.
PETTY OFFICER'S BADGE (WITHOUT STAR)
ON LEFT SLEEVE, BELOW ELBOW.

QUARTERMASTER



BOATSWAIN ONLY; IN FRONT,
ON RIGHT OR LEFT SLEEVE
(ACCORDING TO WATCH).

COXSWAIN



ODDS AND ENDS

Some time ago John A. Stacey sent me a page from a uniform circular published by the Navy Department in Washington, D.C., 10 June 1881. Shown on the bottom left is the sleeve device for Engineers' Force. Before World War One, the U.S. Public Health Service issued rating badges to their enlisted personnel similar to the U.S. Navy, 1937 ushered in new badges, about thirty-some odd rates were issued.

[UNIFORM CIRCULAR.]

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

WASHINGTON, June 10, 1881.

Hereafter the sleeve device for the petty officers of the Engineers' force in the Navy shall be a screw propeller and anchor, as per diagram annexed.

WILLIAM N. JEFFERS,

Acting Secretary of the Navy.



U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE (1937)

On navy blue melton, eagle, device, and wreath all in maroon, petty officer electrician's rate. Worn on both sleeves of the navy jumper.



APPRENTICE TRAINING GRADUATE BADGES (1981 to present) U.S. NAVY RATING BADGES, SPECIALTY MARKS, DISTINGUISHING MARKS 1885 - 1982 by John A. Stacey describes those badges and said they were to be worn by graduates whose designation as a striker had not yet been authorized. These below are for Fireman, Airman, and Seaman respectively. Thanks to John A. Stacey and his wonderful book that is a must for ALL navy rating collectors!



THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

MIDSHIPMAN INSIGNIA



Commander



Lieutenant
Commander



Lieutenant



Lieutenant
Junior
Grade



Ensign



Regimental
Chief Petty
Officer



Battalion
Chief Petty
Officer



Company
Petty
Officer



Platoon
Petty
Officer



Guidon
Petty
Officer



First
Petty Officer
(Platoon Guides and
1st Class Squad Leaders)



Second
Petty Officer
(Squad Leaders
2nd Class)



Second
Class



Regimental
Bugle
Corps



Third
Class

NOTE: Fourth Class has no insignia